

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 5, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(f): Consideration of resolution augmenting Proposition 40 Project Planning and Design grant SMM-0607.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution augmenting Proposition 40 Project Planning and Design grant SMM-0607 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the amount of \$150,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached letter and budget requesting an augmentation of Project Planning and Design grant SMM-0607 in the amount of \$150,000. The initial action on SMM-0607 was in January 2006. Proposition 40 Project Planning and Design funds are critical for to the MRCA to work outside of both the Los Angeles River watershed and the Santa Monica Bay watersheds. However, the funds can also be expended on any project on the attached project list. The proposed funds would be used for project planning and design activities leading directly to the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, and/or protection of land and water resources. Potential projects that will continue to be pursued with these funds are listed in the attached grant application. If the subject Proposition 40 funds are not encumbered with a Conservancy action prior to July 1, 2007 the funding would need to be re-appropriated in the next budget year.

Planning and design activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations and preparation of purchase agreements; obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments; mapping and graphics to support acquisitions; and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate and safe public access. All activities will lead to the preservation and conservation of the state's natural and historical resources.

Land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, including both fee simple title purchases and easements. Fee simple title purchases and easements can be acquired via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with Article 5, Land, Air, and Water Conservation, Section 5096.650(b) or Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal

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Protection Act of 2002, and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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